



## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

## TIME IN DATABASES AND APPLICATIONS OF DATABASES

- 5 [In one embodiment, a] A method of providing data entities of a database with a time dependent value for an attribute of the entity [is disclosed. the method in that embodiment] comprises:
- (i) having values of attributes of [said] entities in [said] the database;
- 10 (ii) for [said] the entities providing a valid time start time associated with each [said] the attribute;
- (iii) for [said] the entities providing a valid time end time associated with each [said] value of [said] the attributes;
- (iv) for [said] the entities providing a transaction time associated
- 15 with [said] the valid start time and [said] the valid time end time for each [said] value; whereby
- (v) when querying [said] the database an appropriate [said] transaction time is used so as to ensure that an appropriate value for [said] the attribute is used and that appropriate valid time start and end times are used,
- update and delete of valid time start and end times being performed by insert operations which leave existing valid time start and end times unchanged.